Course Syllabus
AGEC 4342 & 5342 – Agribusiness Statistics

Instructor
Andrew P. Wright, Ph.D.
Email: andrew.wright@angelo.edu
Phone: (325) 486-6751
Office: #219, Vincent Building
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 3:00-4:00 pm, by appointment, or any time that I am in my office with the door open.

Course Description
This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the fundamental process and methods of statistical analysis. During this course students will learn how to describe data visually and numerically, how to evaluate the probability of an event, and how to test statistical hypotheses.

Meeting Time & Location
Lecture: VIN 146; 8:00-8:50 am, Tuesday & Thursday
Lab: VIN 263; 1:00-2:50 pm, Tuesday

Required Technology & Computer Skills
I rely on technology, such as Blackboard and Pearson’s MyLab Statistics platform to deploy course content. To successfully complete this course, students are expected to:

- Possess access to the necessary hardware required to view online materials, such as:
  - A computer or mobile device with a reliable internet connection, and
  - The ability to view videos from various sources and that use various formats;
- Possess basic web navigation skills; and,
- Register for Pearson’s MyLab Statistics during or before the first week of class.

Knowledge Prerequisites
There are no formal prerequisites for this course; however, I do expect that students taking this course have prior experience with some basic mathematic and algebraic concepts:

- Students should know how to find the mean, median, and mode of a set of numbers.
- Students should know how to compare numbers using ratios, proportions, and/or percentages.
- Students should know how to solve for an unknown variable in an equation.
- Students should know how take numerical information and plug it in to an equation to calculate a solution.

I will provide opportunities to review and practice these skills to any student who requests them. In addition, the ASU tutoring center is a great resource for help with basic math and algebra skills.
Textbook & Learning Platforms
- This course is based on the 5th edition of *Statistics: Informed Decisions Using Data* by Michael Sullivan, Ill.
- I will use the course Blackboard page to deliver course content such as lecture notes and lab exercises.
- I utilize Pearson’s MyLab Statistics platform to deploy homework assignments and other course content. Registering for MyLab Statistics will cost about $150 if purchased through the bookstore, or about $105 if purchased directly from Pearson. Registering for MyLab Statistics will provide you with an electronic copy of the text. Purchasing a hard copy is optional. Students can register for the correct section of MyLab Statistics via the course Blackboard page.

COVID-19 Policies
*Required Use of Facial Coverings*
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory [Facial Covering Policy](#) to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible to make up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

*Course Delivery*
The primary mode of instruction for this course will be face-to-face instruction using lectures and guided classroom activities; however, it is possible that some students will not be able to attend face-to-face sessions because of the COVID-19 virus. For this reason, classroom sessions will be streamed and recorded using Blackboard Collaborate.

Any student that wishes to participate in class remotely may choose to do so; however, remote students are still required to log in to Blackboard during each classroom session. To help me separate students who are skipping class from those who are participating remotely, I ask that students who choose the remote option for any length of time to submit the following information to me:

1. A written request that they be exempt from attending class. This may be a formal request for an accommodation from Angelo State’s Office of Disability Services or as informal as a simple email requesting the exemption.
2. A written plan of action that describes how they will keep up with the course material. This plan needs to be very detailed and should show me that you are prepared to put the time in to make remote learning work.
It is fine for a student to change their decision to participate remotely or face-to-face. I simply ask that you keep me informed of your decision.

Transitioning to Remote Learning
Should the need to transition to remote learning arise, I will develop and post a new syllabus that will describe the changes we will need to make. In the event that we transition to remote learning, the first thing that I will require of each student is an action plan that describes the steps you will take to keep up with the course in the new format. This will be a graded assignment, so please start thinking now about what you will do so that you are prepared.

Course Learning Objectives

IDEA Objectives
At the end of the semester, you will be asked to fill out an IDEA survey in which you will assess this course in terms of its ability to meet certain objectives. Those objectives are:
1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories).
2. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions).
3. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
4. Learning appropriate methods for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting numerical information.

Agribusiness Program Objectives
As a part of the Agribusiness program, this course introduces students majoring in Agribusiness and students minoring in Agricultural Economics to the use of statistical concepts and procedures. As such, students in these programs of study should expect to make progress in the following areas:
1. Essential Knowledge: Students demonstrate the correct use of the statistical process to analyze data.
2. Critical Thinking Skills: Given a data set and a research problem, students will define the correct null and alternative hypotheses, and correctly interpret the associated test of the null hypothesis.
3. Quantitative Reasoning Skills: Given a data set and a research problem, students will calculate the summary statistics necessary to estimate a confidence interval and perform a hypothesis test.

Progress toward these objectives will be assessed using exams and homework assignments.

Attendance Policies
NOTE: What is written here is my general policy on attendance. For attendance policies related to the COVID-19 virus, please read the information given on pages 2 & 3 of this syllabus.

Regular attendance in face-to-face sessions is a vital part of the learning process. For this reason, I expect students enrolled in AGEC 4342 & AGEC 5342 to attend every scheduled lecture and in-class activity.

For now, a student’s attendance in class will not be factored into their final grade; however, if regular attendance and participation in classroom session becomes an issue this will change. Should attendance
become a part of the grading rubric for the course, I will explain how grading will change in class, I will email these changes to the class, and I will publish a new syllabus that contains these changes.

**How I Take Attendance**
I will maintain a record of every student’s attendance for each day of class. If I do not record that you were in class, then you will be counted absent on that day. In addition, students will incur one unexcused absence for every three classes that they arrive more than five minutes late to class.

**Definition of an Unexcused Absence**
I generally consider any absence that is not related to a University event or is not approved by me beforehand as unexcused; however, I am willing to consider excusing any absence as long as you inform me of the absence and explain why it cannot or could not be avoided. Please note that consider does not mean accept.

**Information Missed During an Absence**
You are responsible for any information related to the class that you miss while absent. I am happy to answer any questions you might have, but I will not reproduce a lecture for you in my office.

**Angelo State University Policy on Religious Holy Days**
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

**Course Grades**
The grading scale for the course is as follows:

- A = 1350-1500.00 points
- B = 1200-1349.99 points
- C = 1050-1199.99 points
- D = 900-1049.99 points
- F = 0-899.99 points

You will earn points based on your performance on the following tasks:

- Exams: 300 points
- Homework Assignments: 600 points
- Lab Assignments: 550 points
- Course Entry Tasks: 50 points

**Exams**
There are three exams scheduled for this course. Each exam is worth 100 points towards a student’s final grade. Exams are not cumulative.

- Exam 1: The first exam is planned for Tuesday March 2.
- Exam 2: The second exam is planned for Tuesday March 30.
- Exam 3: The third exam is planned for Tuesday May 11, which is during finals week.
Exams will be deployed online using MyLab, and will be open-note and timed.

Homework Assignments
During the semester you will be required to complete 6 homework assignments; two for each section of the course. Each assignment is worth 100 points. The purpose of these assignments is to give you a chance to assess your progress toward the course goals and objectives; therefore, you will be allowed three attempts on each question in each assignment. Keep in mind that, although it is possible to earn full credit on a question through "trial and error", doing so will not help you accomplish the learning goals for the course.

Lab Assignments
During the course you will be required to complete 11 labs. These labs will give you an opportunity to get “hands on” with data and practice statistical procedures and calculations that you learn about in the lectures. Each lab will include a worksheet that you must turn in to me for a grade. Each worksheet is worth 50 points which you will earn by correctly calculating the statistics and interpreting the statistics featured in the lab.

Course Entry Tasks
You must complete two entry tasks on or before Sunday, January 31. The purpose of these tasks is to make sure that you are aware of the course goals and policies, that you are prepared to engage with the course materials, and that you are prepared to interact with the various technologies that we use this semester. The two tasks you must complete are:

1. Read the syllabus, review the course policies, review Angelo State’s policies regarding academic integrity and academic dishonesty, and complete a set of statements that indicate you understand the course and general academic policies; and,
2. Register for MyLab Statistics and complete a series of orientation exercises.

Completing these tasks will earn you a total of 50 points toward your final grade. These points are largely effort-based; as long as you successfully complete each task you should earn full credit.

Policy on Missing a Due Date
It is vital that you regularly assess your knowledge of the material presented in this course if you want to accomplish the course learning goals. For this reason, every assignment must be completed by the date and time announced in class, on Blackboard, and in MyLab to receive full credit. You may complete any of the assignments or course entry tasks after their due date; however, late assignments will receive an automatic 50% reduction in their score. The deadline to submit late assignments for partial credit is May 9 at 11:59 pm.

Special circumstances may warrant an extension on the deadline for any assignment. Please see the policy on requesting extensions or changes in due dates for more information.
**Requesting an Extension or Change in a Due Date**
As you progress through the course you may find yourself faced with a situation that prevents you from accessing and submitting an assignment by the given due date or taking an exam during the scheduled exam period. When these circumstances occur, you may contact me to request an extension. When you request an extension please provide an explanation for why you will miss the due date or exam period, why the circumstance cannot reasonably be avoided, and an estimate for when you expect to complete the assignment or exam.

If you know beforehand that you will be unable to access and/or submit an assignment by the given due date or attend an exam during the scheduled period, you may request that its due date be changed. Once this change is made you will be expected to complete the assignment or exam by the new deadline and will be subject to the same consequences for missing due dates that any other student faces.

Please submit all requests for extensions or a change in due dates to me by email so that there is a written record of the request. In addition, please note that you are not guaranteed an extension or change in due date that you ask for. I will consider each request based on their individual merits. Please also be aware that simply forgetting to complete a task is not generally a sufficient reason for an extension; however, I usually give every student one “free”, no-questions-asked extension. Use this freebie wisely.

**Emailing the Instructor**
Communication is an important skill that nearly all employers look for in new employees, and particularly in college graduates. Learning to communicate professionally is vital if you wish to remain employed in any career for very long. For this reason, when you contact me via email, please include a subject, a greeting, and a signature. For example, if you are experiencing a difficulty logging into Blackboard your email might look like this:

Subject: Blackboard is down

Dear Dr. Wright,
I tried to log in to Blackboard to complete the homework assignment that is due tonight, but it seems the program is down for emergency maintenance. Have any other students encountered this issue? Considering the circumstance, would you please extend the assignment’s deadline?

Thank you,

[Your Name]
**Academic Integrity and Misconduct**

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the university’s [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).  

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#). The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability Services  
Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

**Title IX at Angelo State University**

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.  
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator  
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210  
325-942-2022  
michelle.boone@angelo.edu
You may also file a report online 24/7 by filling out this [incident form](#).

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit Angelo State’s [Title IX website](#).

### Course Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week(s)</th>
<th>Topics</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>Course orientation &amp; Introduction to statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>2, 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>Descriptive statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 &amp; 5</td>
<td>Introduction to probability</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Exam 1 (review on February 23; take exam on March 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Probability distributions</td>
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<tr>
<td>7, 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td>Sampling distributions &amp; confidence intervals</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 &amp; 10</td>
<td>Exam 2 (review on March 24; take exam on March 29)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 &amp; 11</td>
<td>Introduction to statistical hypotheses</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 &amp; 12</td>
<td>Conducting a t test</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>The Chi-square distribution and test</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
<td>Analysis of Variance</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 &amp; 15</td>
<td>Review for Exam 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finals</td>
<td>Exam 3 on May 12</td>
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### Policies on Deviations from the Published Schedule

While I hope I do not have to make any changes to the course schedule, there is always the possibility that special circumstances will arise that necessitate changes be made. If such a circumstance occurs then I will communicate it in class, via Blackboard, and by email. Once announced, any such change will supersede what is written in this syllabus or currently published online.

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i [www.texastech.edu/downloads/ttus-policy-face-coverings.pdf](#)

ii [https://www.angelo.edu/live/files/27603-student-handbook-2020-21#page=96](#)

iii [https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/](#)

iv [http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form](#)

v [https://www.angelo.edu/title-ix](#)